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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 8, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this assembly return from days away celebrating our Nation's birth, grant them safe journey. May they return ready to assume a difficult work which must be done.

We pray for the needs of the Nation and world and all of creation. Bless those who seek to honor You and serve each other and all Americans in this House through their public service. May the words and deeds of this place reflect an earnest desire for justice, and may men and women in government build on the tradition of equity and truth that represents the noblest heritage of our people.

May Your blessing, O God, be with us this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ISRAEL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about American energy independence.

Removing barriers to safe offshore energy production is a necessary component of a serious American energy strategy. Our country has been blessed with an abundance of resources; and if we utilize those resources responsibly rather than ignore them, we can reduce dependence on foreign oil by creating 1 million new jobs.

During the same week an Obama global warming adviser stated that a "war on coal is exactly what's needed." Republicans worked to lower energy prices, to move our country away from dependence on foreign oil, and to create jobs. This stands in stark contrast to President Obama's energy priorities. Under his Environmental Protection Agency, 17 North Carolina coal units are being shut down; gas prices remain high; and the shovel-ready Keystone XL pipeline remains stalled.

Jobless Americans and working families deserve better. The President would do well to follow the all-of-the-above energy strategy we led with in the House.

THE RESILIENCE OF OUR FAITHS

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, with so many challenges in the world today—student loan rates, turmoil in Egypt and in Syria, and jobs at home—I think it's important for us to remind ourselves of the resilience of our faiths.

Recently, in New York, I joined Monsignor Brendan Riordan and the congregation of the St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck to celebrate their centennial jubilee.

St. Aloysius was established in 1876. In 1913, ground was broken for the beautiful church that stands today. It stands today with 1,200 families, worshipping in English, in Spanish, and in Korean, with food banks and immigration counseling and human services and interfaith partnerships.

I am privileged to represent St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck, Mr. Speaker, and I am especially privileged to talk about it on the floor of this Congress today.

OBAMACARE EMPLOYER MANDATE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare's long-term care insurance program has been abandoned and repealed. Its preexisting conditions insurance program has been shut down. Its small business exchanges have been delayed—and on and on with this train wreck.

Last week, the President chose to blatantly ignore his own law by putting off the employer mandate until 2015. There is no waiver procedure in the bill. I guess Senator REID didn't think it important when he was crafting the bill behind closed doors.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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